ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am grateful to Shri B. S. Lamba, Leader of the Godavari River Basin Faunistic Survey party and Officer-in-Charge, Western Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, for providing facilities to examine the collections.

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
WESTERN REGIONAL STATION,
POONA,
October 24, 1969.

K. RAMACHANDRA RAO

18. OCCURRENCE OF *AMBLYOMMA JAVANENSE* (SUPINO, 1897) (IXODOIDEA : IXODIDAE) IN THE KYASANUR FOREST DISEASE AREA, SHIMOGA DISTRICT, MYSORE STATE, INDIA

Amblyomma javanense (Supino 1897) is widely distributed and is known from Pakistan, India, Ceylon, China and the South-east Asian countries (Anastos 1950). In India this species has been recorded from areas now included in West Bengal, Bihar, Maharashtra and Gujarat States (Sharif 1928). The known hosts of *A. javanense* include *Geomyda tricarinata*, *Varanus salvator*, *Python molurus*, *Vesperugo abramus*, *Manis pentadactyla*, *Hyaena hyaena* and *Nicoria tricarinata* (Anastos, op. cit.; Sharif, op. cit.).

During the course of the Epidemiological investigations of Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) in Shimoga District, Mysore State, India, thousands of Ixodid ticks belonging to 24 species (8 genera) including two species of *Amblyomma*, namely *A. integrum* and *A. testudinarium*, have been collected from forest vegetation and from various species of vertebrate hosts (Rajagopalan 1965; Rajagopalan *et al.* 1968; Trapido *et al.* 1964). However, *Amblyomma javanense* has not so far been recorded in this area.

We report the occurrence of *A. javanense* in KFD area, based on a small collection made at Karadigere forest on 16th June 1970. The identification of these specimens was confirmed by Dr. V. Dhanda. Two porcupines (*Hystrix indica*) were trapped after digging their burrow. One male *A. javanense* was collected from the body of a porcupine. After a careful examination, one questing nymph and two adults were found inside the burrow. The other species of ticks collected as ectoparasites from the same porcupines were, *Haemaphy-*

salis spinigera, *H. turturis* and *H. kyasanurensis*. The occurrence of questing nymphs and adults in the burrow indicates that this may not be a one host tick, as suggested by Anastos (1950).

We are grateful to Dr. H. R. Bhat for his valuable suggestions.

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I. C. M. R.,
POONA-1,
August 7, 1971.

M. A. SREENIVASAN
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19. A NEW HOST OF *ALECTRA PARASITICA* A. RICH. VAR. *CHITRAKUTENSIS* M. A. RAU

Alectra parasitica A. Rich. var. *chitrakutensis* M. A. Rau was described in 1961. It is an important medicinal plant and has hitherto been known to grow only on the roots of *Vitex negundo*. We record here, probably for the first time, *Ocimum sanctum* L. as another host.

The infested plants of *Ocimum sanctum* L. 'Rama Tulsi' were seen growing in sandy loam, un-manured, soil in the compound of a private building in Chitrakut, U. P. The plants are irrigated frequently but lightly. They receive sun for about 5-6 hours during the winter and 7-8 hours during the summer months. The approximate age of the plants is five years. The agency and the time of infestation is not known. Apparently there is no difference in the health of the infested and the non-infested plants growing side by side. The parasite has been seen in flower in December, 1970.

Occurrence of the parasite on this new host may be of medicinal interest also. In this context it may be mentioned that both the host plants viz., *Vitex negundo* and *Ocimum sanctum* are important medicinal plants themselves and belong to two different families. It may be